



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room
1300 17th Street, City CENTRE – Bakersfield, CA 93301

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present

Julie A. Beechinor

Lori J. Cisneros

Lori Eskew

Mary M. Little

Joe L. Marcano

James V. Robinson

Violetamarysol Morales

Board Members Absent

Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.

KCSOS Employees Present

Dr. John G. Mendiburu, *Superintendent*

Christian Shannon, *Deputy Superintendent*

Steve Sanders, *Chief of Staff*

Merril Clanton, *Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*

1.4 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Beechinor to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and
Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

- 1.5 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the Minutes from December 17, 2024.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Inderpal Singh
- Jagmeet Singh
- Avneet Sandhu
- Angelo Frazier
- Sheila Lake
- David Sponhultz
- Michael Pollack
- Sarah Frost
- Karina Gallardo
- Jes Sanders
- Brian Russom
- Dennis McLean
- Ana Comejo
- Rosa Lopez
- Steve Bacon
- Nancy Bacon
- Terry Maxwell
- Alyssa Jones

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Discussion regarding the Ten Commandments.
Presentation by ACLU Chief Counsel Peter Eliasberg and Professor Nancy Meyer.
- 3.2 JobsPlus! Program Presentation

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1 Consent Agenda

- 4.1.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Cisneros to approve the Graduation Diplomas.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2 General Business

- 4.2.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Cisneros to accept and file Williams Quarterly Report.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marciano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.2 It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Marciano to approve the file the 2023-24 Audit Report for GROW Charter.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marciano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.3 It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Marciano to approve and file the 2023-24 Audit Report for Wonderful College Prep Academy.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marciano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.4 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marciano to approve the Resolution to the Kern County Bar Association for 2024-25 Mock Trial Competitions.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Ms. Little, Mr. Marciano, and Mr. Robinson
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Trustee Cisneros expressed gratitude towards Miss Morales for her service as a student representative on the board, recalling how they had known each other since Morales was in fourth grade at Valley Oaks Charter School. She commended her for growing into an exceptional, confident young woman, and expressed excitement in witnessing her future endeavors. Additionally, Trustee Cisneros requested to review the current curriculum materials and state standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts in the alternative education program to better understand the academic content being taught in classrooms.

- 5.2 Trustee Robinson attended a seminar at California State University Bakersfield, which focused on child sex trafficking and labor trafficking. He highlighted the importance of raising awareness about these issues, especially for younger students. Trustee Robinson emphasized that while current programs are only provided to 9th through 12th graders, the main targets for trafficking often include younger children. He suggested that the board should consider a presentation on this topic, tailored for younger students, to proactively protect children in Kern County. Trustee Robinson proposed that representatives from relevant local agencies, including law enforcement and activists, come to present at a future board meeting to discuss strategies and educational approaches to safeguard children from trafficking risks.
- 5.3 Trustee Beechinor expressed gratitude to the public for their continued engagement, participation, and input during board meetings, emphasizing the importance of hearing diverse perspectives. She acknowledged the community's efforts in supporting those affected by the Los Angeles fires, highlighting various schools and programs that have organized support and relief efforts. Trustee Beechinor also thanked the student representative, Miss Morales, for her service and contributions to the board, noting her articulate and insightful participation. She expressed anticipation for the contributions of the new student representative joining the board.
- 5.4 Trustee Eskew wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed excitement for the new student representative joining the board, while also expressing appreciation for the outgoing student representative, Miss Morales, acknowledging her valuable contributions and presence. Trustee Eskew attended a Kern High School District board meeting and raised a concern regarding clubs in schools, particularly about special needs children being approached by clubs without parental notification. Trustee Eskew suggested the possibility of requiring parental permission for all clubs, especially to protect special needs students who might not fully understand the implications of joining certain clubs. Trustee Eskew sought clarification on whether their board could address this issue or if it was solely under the jurisdiction of individual school districts.
- 5.5 Trustee Marcano praised Miss Morales for her eloquence and positive contribution as a student representative on the board, noting that both he and another trustee frequently marveled at her articulate input during meetings. He encouraged Morales to pursue her potential, possibly even in law, as he could envision her being a great advocate in the courtroom. Trustee Marcano also welcomed the new student representative, Anai Valencia, acknowledging that she has big shoes to fill but expressing excitement to have her join the board.
- 5.6 Trustee Little thanked the public for their consistent attendance, participation, and input at the board meetings, emphasizing that their voices are heard and valued. She applauded the efforts of schools and programs in organizing relief efforts for families affected by the Los Angeles fires, expressing pride in the community's response. Trustee Little also acknowledged the student representative's service on the board, expressing gratitude for her contributions and stating that she looked forward to welcoming the new student representative.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu thanked Miss Morales for her outstanding contributions as a student representative, acknowledging her positive impact and expressing excitement to see where her future will lead. He welcomed Anai Valencia, the new student representative, expressing anticipation for her involvement on the board. He addressed the devastating fires in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, mentioning his ongoing communication with both County Superintendents. While still assessing the damage and needs, he noted that Los Angeles County is reallocating students due to school closures and that Kern County might potentially see an influx of displaced students. Dr. Mendiburu provided an update on the Governor's budget, stating there are no projected cuts to education for the next year, with a proposed cost-of-living adjustment. He explained the budget process, noting that the May revise would be crucial in finalizing financial plans. Finally, Dr. Mendiburu supported Trustee Robinson's initiative for a presentation on child trafficking awareness, highlighting current discussions and programs for older students and suggesting potential benefits for younger audiences.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 A recommendation by Trustee Robinson was made to discuss child and labor trafficking.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 11, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent